

## **Emergency Management Performance Grant Steering Committee**

### **Mission and Purpose**

The Emergency Management Performance Grant Program is grant funding to assist stakeholders in improving emergency performance capabilities; it is also a robust and transparent Program which involves both day-to-day and long-term strategic relationships. FEMA's **Priority for FY 2011** is Advancing "Whole Community" Security and Emergency Management. As the country experiences threats of terrorist attacks (foreign and domestic) and natural disasters, communities are challenged to develop collective, local abilities to withstand the potential impacts of these events, respond quickly, and recover in a way that sustains or improves the community's overall well-being. Achieving this collective capacity calls for innovative approaches across the community, including emergency management to build up existing practices, institutions, and organizations that help make local communities successful, and that can leverage this infrastructure if and when an incident occurs. FEMA personnel maintain close relationships with the emergency management community in order to ensure that the Program is developed to meet the needs of such stakeholders. Close relationships are also maintained in order to allow FEMA to analyze lessons learned, best practices, and overall progress made in achieving identified needs and goals.

Specific committee duties include:

- 1) Determine a strategy for equitable distribution of funds
- 2) Recognize and Qualify the legitimate interests of stakeholders
- 3) Implementation of the criteria
- 4) Review stakeholders accountability and performance

With a state as large as Texas, different communities have different needs. The EMPG allows jurisdictions to pay for certain resources, supplies or programs for their emergency management program that the jurisdiction might otherwise go without. Approximately 56 states and territories participate in the federal EMPG program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). When Texas receives its allocated EMPG funds, it is one of the few states that will pass a portion of those funds through to local jurisdictions to reimburse them for emergency management program expenses. For local governments, the state of Texas requires a 50 percent match for every federal dollar of EMPG funding provided.